

# Mayor and City Council Agenda Item Request

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**Meeting Date:** 4/15/2013

**Type:** Presentation

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**Call to Podium:**

Samir Hussein, Multicultural Affairs Committee

Guled Kassim, Former President of Montgomery County Muslim Foundation

**Agenda Item Title:**

Proclamation of the Mayor and City Council Designating April 2013 as “Arab American Heritage Month” in the City of Gaithersburg

**Responsible Staff and Department:**

Andi Rosati, Parks, Recreation and Culture

**Desired Outcome from Council:**

Issue Proclamation

Public Hearing History	
Introduction Date:	
Advertisement Date :	
Public Hearing Date:	
Record Held Open Date:	
Policy Discussion Date:	
Anticipated Adoption Date:	

**SUPPORTING BACKGROUND ON NEXT PAGE**

# **Mayor and City Council Agenda Item Request**

## **Supporting Background Information:**

The City of Gaithersburg recognizes Arab Americans throughout the month of April, providing an opportunity to learn and appreciate the history and contributions of the Arab culture in the United States.

The Arab world is culturally rich and diverse, encompassing 22 countries; three monotheistic world religions; divergent political loyalties; as well as differences of region, kinship and social class. Arab Americans have been part of the American society since the Revolutionary War and have played prominent roles in government, business and industry, education, culture, the arts, and public affairs.

The Multicultural Affairs Committee recognizes these contributions to our society and chose the theme “Caring and Advocacy – Arab Americans Making a Difference,” recognizing six well known Arab Americans.

Earlier this evening, the City of Gaithersburg’s Multicultural Affairs Committee celebrated with a reception of traditional food and with displays recognizing the following Arab Americans for their caring actions and advocacy: Helen Thomas, Ralph Nader, Candy Lightner, Edward Said, Dr. Imad-ad-Deam Ahmad, and Samira Hussein.

We are honored to have Guled Kassim, Former President of Montgomery County Muslim Foundation and Samira Hussein, Member of the Multicultural Affairs Committee, to accept the Proclamation.